



MVSC, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri

The History of Hotel Kansas City



The Origins of the Kansas City Club

The Kansas City Club, established in 1882, was one of the Midwest's premier social clubs. In 1918, construction began on a new clubhouse at 13th and Baltimore Avenue, which was completed in 1922. Built in a striking Gothic Tudor style, the 15-floor structure was designed to impress, featuring a grand 20-foot-tall lobby with marble floors, oak-paneled walls, and ornate carved ceilings. Initially intended to be a men's-only club, the building's plans shifted before completion due to World War I delays and changing societal norms. Women were eventually permitted on four designated floors, accessible by a women's-only elevator and with a dedicated parlor.

The background image shows the interior of a grand, historic room. On the left, a pool table is partially visible. The room features high ceilings with ornate wooden beams and large, multi-paned windows. In the center, there are leather sofas and armchairs arranged around a coffee table. To the right, a dining area with wooden tables and chairs is visible. The floor is made of polished stone tiles. The overall atmosphere is one of classic elegance and historical significance.

FUN FACT:

The Kansas City Club, established in 1882, was one of the premier clubs in the city. A group of businessmen who lived in the Quality Hill area and weren't allowed to smoke cigars in their Victorian homes started the club. The social club exists today with approximately 850 members, and moved to a new location on Baltimore.

THE GRILL ROOM



The Club's Impressive Amenities and Design

The Kansas City Club building was designed as a one-of-a-kind structure, costing over \$2.5 million at the time — roughly \$100 million in today's dollars. The building featured extensive amenities, including meeting rooms, racketball courts, a gym, restaurants, a bowling alley, and 160 private hotel rooms. The 13th floor boasted a five-lane swimming pool, while the top floor offered an open terrace restaurant with sweeping views of downtown Kansas City.

ICONIC AMENITIES AND DESIGN

Notable Members and Impact

The Kansas City Club welcomed prominent figures such as Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, General Omar Bradley, and Ewing Kauffman. Early members played a pivotal role in shaping Kansas City's economic and social landscape, making the Club an influential hub for local leaders.





FUN FACT:
In the 1950's, crews enclosed the open terrace on the
14th floor so club members could enjoy the new
technology of air conditioning.

STARLIGHT BALLROOM



Transition to Hotel Kansas City

After the Kansas City Club relocated in 2002, the building was converted into an event space on the first six floors and condos in the remaining floors. Extensive renovations began in May 2019, and Hotel Kansas City opened its doors in October 2020. As a registered historic landmark, the hotel retains many original features, such as the former champagne bar (now the Lobby Market) and the original pool tiling still visible in guestrooms on the 13th floor. The 15th floor, once an outdoor garden, is now the only indoor/outdoor event venue in Downtown KC.



A Modern Hospitality Experience

Today, Hotel Kansas City offers 144 guest rooms including 15 suites, many with loft spaces or separate living areas. The property boasts over 20,000 square feet of meeting space, including the Starlight Ballroom and the Tudor Ballroom, which showcases stained-glass murals by Ronald Neill Dixon. Dining options include The Town Company, Lobby Market, and The Classic, our Lobby Bar, while Nighthawk is our energetic bar with live performances. Warm and welcoming, Hotel Kansas City continues to honor its rich history while serving as a vibrant gathering place for locals and travelers alike.

THE ESSENTIAL KANSAS CITY EXPERIENCE

The background image shows the interior of the Tudor Ballroom. It features a high, vaulted ceiling with intricate white plasterwork. A large, ornate chandelier hangs from the center. The room has two levels of wooden balconies with decorative railings. The walls are covered in dark wood paneling, and there are large windows with colorful stained glass. The floor is made of polished wood, reflecting the light.

FUN FACT:

Harry S. Truman enjoyed playing cards at the Kansas City Club, and after becoming President was named an honorary lifetime member. The club also awarded Generals Dwight D. Eisenhower and Omar Bradley honorary memberships in recognition of their service in World War II.

TUDOR BALLROOM



Where members of the Kansas City Club once recharged, Hotel Kansas City now sets a new standard for grand hospitality in Kansas City and beyond.